

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Romans // Grafted In

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Explain a time where arrogance, from you or from someone else, has gotten in the way of a relationship.

Reading: Romans 11:11-24

Outline:

- I. God Grafts You Into Faith
 - a. We are connected to the root, Jesus, and our faith is a life-giving connection. We are connected to Him through the branches, grafted into the church, and grafted into God's people.
 - b. As both individuals and as a community, God teaches us to confess, and begins turning our hearts from arrogance and unbelief to life and faith. The faith you hold, holds you.
Q: How can we live in the roots of Jesus and continue to be strong in faith as a foundation?
- II. God Grafts You Into Community
 - a. Arrogance produces hate and disbelief, which causes us to be cut off from God. We are consigned to disobedience so that God can have mercy on us all.
 - b. God calls sin what it is. Then His forgiveness takes that sin into Himself, and gives you life, gives us daily grace, and daily gives us the ability to have a fresh start.
Q: In what ways can we stand fast in faith, and push against our arrogance?
- III. God Grafts You Into Himself
 - a. Dr. Robert Kolb explains that we are hitmen and midwives. God does his work through you in conversations and relationships. His word kills and makes alive. It reveals the hopelessness in everything else, and reveals Jesus as our hope.
 - b. This is why preaching, worship, baptism and communion matter so much. We need to constantly hear that we are sinners and that God redeems and forgives us. God has the power to graft you in, time and time again!
Q: How can God use our conversations and relationships to help graft people into the church?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How does the branches/roots analogy speak to our living connection to God?
- 2) How has arrogance gotten in the way of your relationship with God?
- 3) In what ways should we be hitmen for God? And in what ways should we be midwives?

Suggestions for further study:

- John 15:4-5 **Q: How is our work strengthened when we rely on God's will?**
- Psalms 27:14 **Q: How can we learn patience in times of stagnation or hardship?**

Closing Prayer:

Father God, we thank you for your word that brings us back to life, from sin and death. Forgive us for our arrogance and disbelief, and for the times we move forward in our own strength instead of yours. Give us the perspective to look to you in all things. Strengthen our roots in you, so that we may blossom and become fruitful in your will. Amen.